

## TREATS

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"I was amazed at the people's generosity," said Parsons. "There really was nothing in this for the person buying the cookies, other than it being a way to really support the troops."

"We far surpassed our goal of cookie sales from last year," said Kit Missile, 100.3 FM, Morning Show D.J., broadcasting with Parsons throughout the event. "We were shocked in such a good way, and pleased to find that so many people heard about the event. I think we're kind of spoiled [due to high cookie sales] this year because we almost doubled what we sold last year."

The sale of the cookies resulted in more than \$14,400 for the Girl Scouts of Chaparral Council.

"The idea began with Amber Williams, Promotions Director for 100.3 FM, whose brother-in-law, while awaiting deployment from Albuquerque's Sunport Airport last year, mentioned he was going to miss Girl Scout cookie sales among other things," said Parsons. "So Amber called me with the idea of simply selling Girl Scout cookies and shipping them to the troops." We contacted the Girl Scouts and it led into the first Treats for Troops event last year, resulting in the sale of more than 2,700 Girl Scout cookies.

"This year's goal was to sell 3,333 boxes of Girl Scout cookies, which would have been \$10,000 raised for the Girl Scouts," said Parsons. "This year we have a lot of troops in the Middle-East. The goal for next year's sales will likely depend upon the level of troops still deployed. The plan is to do this again next year, since troops will likely still be deployed over there – unfortunately."

## ESGR

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their military employees. Among recent recipients are Intel Corp in Rio Rancho in 2000 and Southwest Airlines in Albuquerque in 2001. The New Mexico Automotive Dealers Association is nominated for the upcoming award in recognition of its Operation

Home Front, a fund established to provide differential pay for lower ranks of the Guard and Reserve from New Mexico who are serving active duty.

While employed by Travelers Insurance and serving as a Reservist, Churchill was invited to join ESGR as an ombudsman by Dean Irwin. Irwin was a Sandia National Laboratories employee who formed the New Mexico organization in 1978. Bringing

his experience as a former military inspector general and personnel officer, Churchill has served about three and a half years of his six-year term.

"Being and staying involved with our military and efforts to support our nation at this time, or any time, is a worthwhile endeavor," Churchill said. "It is rewarding."

## Operations Security: Awareness is the key

There are things you can do to help protect the security of yourself, unit members, and their dependents.

First, never give out the names of personnel deploying with you or from your unit or any DOD unit, even if it is only their first name. This information is not for public release.

Second, never give out specific dates of troop movements. This includes standard aerospace expeditionary force rotations and contingencies.

Third, never provide a copy of official deployment orders to anyone requiring proof of your spouse's deployment, even in exchange for services with the best of intentions.

If someone does approach you (or your spouse) about when you are leaving, who is going, or addresses where they can send goods and materials to our servicemembers (even if they have the best of intentions—including schools and church groups) the best thing to do is redirect them to service organizations such as the Red Cross, The Air Force Aid Society, USO, etc.

<http://www.redcross.org>

<http://www.afas.org>

<http://www.uso.org>

If they would like to write letters, please direct them to the online website which posts messages that all servicemembers can read.

<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>

Family members who have your specific address can still mail packages to their family member. "People still can mail cookies, cards, books and 'care' packages, provided they have a specific service member's name and address.

However, family members should never give this mailing address to neighbors or community groups in their local communities. If a family member's club/organization wants to send you something, have the organization give the package to the family, and the family members can address the package and send it.

In addition, DOD postal officials, concerned about the vulnerability of the military mail system to attack, recently suspended all 'any servicemember' mail.

According to DOD officials, those programs were eliminated because they have created an avenue to introduce biological, chemical, or explosive materials into the military mail system, putting people in danger.

The Air Force has also identified other potential vulnerabilities regarding protection of our personnel to include Internet websites that ask for overseas mailing addresses, publicly available sign-up sheets for phone cards or other goods to be sent overseas, or well-meaning local community efforts to send homemade goods or materials anonymously to APO addresses for military members.